

**EXPERT SYMPOSIUM ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

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CONTRIBUTION

TO THE EXPERT SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (15-17 FEBRUARY 2019)

1. ¹ there are now some 68.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, including 25.4 million recognized refugees² and 3.1 million registered asylum-seekers. The overwhelming majority approximately 85% of refugees who have fled conflict or persecution across international borders remain in developing countries. A third of all refugees globally are hosted by the least

reflected in processes surrounding the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, and the elaboration of the Global Compact on Refugees, among other related developments, the links between responses to cross-border displacement, refugee protection and humanitarian action, development, international cooperation, the support needs of hosting communities, and human mobility more broadly, are increasingly receiving the attention they deserve.

Refugee and displacement data

2. The Global Compact on Refugees highlights evidence-based measures as a key tool for operationalizing burden and responsibility sharing in response to refugee situations.³
3. At its establishment in 2016, the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS)⁴ was mandated by the UN Statistical Commission to develop International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS). The IRRS, which represent the first comprehensive international standards for reporting on refugees and related populations, were endorsed by the Statistical Commission in March 2018.⁵ They establish an agreed framework for the production and management of data and statistics on refugees and persons with a refugee background, providing the basis for consistency and comparability in refugee data, and for the inclusion of refugees in national statistical systems. The Recommendations notably provide agreed statistical definitions for refugee categories, indicators for reporting on refugee populations, and methodologies for collecting and analysing refugee statistics.
4. International recommendations for IDP statistics will be finalized in 2019 and presented to the UN Statistical Commission for adoption in March 2020.
5. In the SDG context, UNHCR continues to support indicator disaggregation by migration status, and to recommend the inclusion of an indicator reflecting refugee numbers. This reflects the guidance provided in the IRRS, which recommend disaggregation by refugee and asylum status and provide guidance for monitoring an
The EGRIS has accordingly identified twelve SDG indicators, under the key policy priority areas of basic needs and living conditions; livelihoods and economic self-reliance; and civil, political and legal rights, which are

to informing policy and planning decisions and supporting the integration of refugees and IDPs into national development plans.

6. UNHCR has continued to work with national authorities and international organizations to support the inclusion of refugees and IDPs in national population registers and statistical systems.
7. The World Bank and UNHCR are in the process of establishing a joint data centre with UNHCR to improve population and socio-economic data on forced displacement and to strengthen the sustainability of a global data collection system.

Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Refugee Forum

8. The Global Compact on Refugees was affirmed by member states of the UN General Assembly on 17 December 2018, in its annual Resolution on the work of UNHCR,⁶ following a two-year period of extensive consultations led by UNHCR with UN Member States, international organizations, experts, civil society and refugees.
9. Though the products of distinct and separate processes, the Global Compact on Refugees (Refugee Compact) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Migration Compact) are both grounded in the recognition that greater international cooperation is needed to better manage human mobility in all its dimensions. Both compacts have in common the clear acknowledgement that international development has a key role to play in addressing the root causes and consequences of migration and forced displacement. Indeed, both Compacts call on the international community to invest in enhanced efforts to alleviate poverty and provide development assistance to countries of origin in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
10. In the case of refugee situations, with which the Refugee Compact is centrally concerned, there is increasing consensus that the early engagement of development actors is essential in helping host States manage the impact of large-scale refugee situations, including through investment in jobs, education and resilience.⁷

13. Finally, the Global Refugee Forum, which will be convened by UNHCR every four years at ministerial level and exchange good practices, both with respect to specific country or regional situations as well as at the global level.

Climate change and disaster displacement

14. UNHCR has contributed to work towards SDG 13 (urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) through its ongoing work on climate change and disaster displacement in four main areas: legal advice, guidance and normative development; promoting policy coherence; addressing research and knowledge gaps; and field activities to avert, minimize and address internal and cross-border disaster displacement. The Global Compact on Refugees⁸ adopted by the UN General Assembly on 17 December 2018 calls for stakeholders with relevant mandates and expertise to protect persons forcibly displaced by disasters linked to natural hazards, and articulates concrete measures to reduce disaster risk. Further, UNHCR has provided technical support to the UNFCCC process since 2008 through the Advisory Group on Human Mobility and Climate Change,⁹ and as a member of the Task Force on Displacement¹⁰ mandated by the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage, contributing to the development of recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement linked to the adverse effects of climate change in 2018¹¹ that were endorsed by the Parties at COP24.
15. UNHCR continues to actively engage with the Platform on Disaster Displacement¹² as a standing invitee to its Steering Group in follow-up to the Protection Agenda¹³ produced by the Nansen Initiative. As part of the :
provided to people displaced across borders in specific situations in the Horn of Africa and the Americas in the context of nexus dynamics between conflict or violence and disaster or climate change.¹⁴ The study identifies policy and practical solutions to strengthen the implementation of refugee-law-based international protection in